Genji the Death's Friend

~Chapter Forty~ The Kaleidoscope Pismire (11)

STORY BY SEIMARU AMAGI
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THE QUESTION REMAINS, WHY DID HIKARU KAGARI'S MOTHER KILL YUNA MINATO?
I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.
HOWEVER, I BELIEVE IT WAS THAT INCIDENT THAT PUSHED KAGARI-KUN'S FATHER...
...TO SEAL AWAY HIS SON'S MEMORIES IN ORDER TO COVER UP HIS RESEARCH.

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MangaBox

NOW,
REGARDING THE BURNED DOWN HOUSE FOUND WHILE TAILING HIKARU KAGARI AND JUNICHI TOMARI LAST WEEK...
NOT FAR FROM WHERE IT STOOD WAS THE MANHOLE WHERE YUNA MINTAO'S BODY WAS FOUND TEN YEARS AGO.
CLINK
UPON FURTHER INVESTIGATION, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT HIKARU KAGARI'S FATHER, YORUHIKO KAGARI, ONCE LIVED THERE WITH A CLOSE FRIEND.
DO YOU THINK THIS IS A COINCIDENCE?
IF IT WAS, THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE BRINGING IT UP.
THE MAN IN QUESTION IS QUITE CURIOUS. SOON AFTER THE KAGARI'S MURDER, HE MOVED AND LATER BECAME HIKARU KAGARI'S GUARDIAN.
ONE WOULD NORMALLY THINK HIM TO BE A PRIMARY SUSPECT IN THE CASE.
HOWEVER, NOT ONLY WAS HE NOT TREATED AS A SUSPECT, BUT THERE ARE NO RECORDS THAT SHOW HE WAS EVEN INVESTIGATED.

IT'S AS IF HIS VERY EXISTENCE WENT IGNORED BY INVESTIGATORS.
WHY WOULD THAT BE?
BEATS ME. I STILL DON'T SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING.
JUST WHAT DOES THIS GUY HAVE TO DO WITH BOTH OF THE MURDERS?
IF WE ASSUME IT WAS HIKARU KAGARI'S MOTHER WHO KILLED YUNA MINATO...
...THEN THE KAGARIS *MURDER* BEGINS TO SEEM VERY SUSPICIOUS.
IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THEIR DEATH...
...WAS IN FACT A DOUBLE SUICIDE.

NOW, NOW, INSPECTOR REIZEN...
JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PHOTOS.
THAT INCIDENT WAS DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN A MURDER JUDGING FROM THE CONDITION THE SCENE WAS IN.
HMPH.
ON THE CONTRARY, CHIAKI-KUN,
HERE YOU SEE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS STREWN ABOUT ON TOP OF THEIR BLOOD.
RIGHT?
THIS PROVES THAT SOMEONE RUMMAGED THROUGH THE HOUSE AFTER THEY WERE KILLED.
THAT ONLY PROVES SOMEONE LOOKED THROUGH THE HOUSE AFTER THEIR DEATH, NOT THAT THEY WERE MURDERED.
ONE COULD EASILY SEE IT AS AN ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL THE TRUTH. THE QUESTION IS, WHY?
WHAT MERIT IS THERE TO MAKING THEIR DEATH LOOK LIKE A MURDER, RATHER THAN A SUICIDE? WHY DID THIS MAN FALL UNDER THE POLICE'S RADAR?

I SUSPECT BECAUSE HE WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE POLICE, MOST LIKELY THE SECRET SERVICE...
...AND COVERED THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS DEAR FRIEND'S ONLY SON.
HOWEVER, THERE IS NO LONGER ANYONE TO GIVE HIM ORDERS.
IT'S POSSIBLE HIS PAST AS A POLICE OFFICER HAS BEEN COMPLETELY ERASED.

SECRET SERVICE, HUH? THIS IS TURNING INTO QUITE A LOFTY STORY.
BUT OF COURSE.
PROFESSOR KAGARI WAS IN CHARGE OF TOP SECRET GOVERNMENT RESEARCH.
GIVEN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR RESEARCH, IT'S ONLY NATURAL THEY WERE GIVEN PROTECTION, OR SHOULD I SAY... SURVEILLANCE.
IF THE AGENT WANTED TO GO ABOUT THINGS DISCREETLY, HE LIKELY CREATED A FALSE IDENTITY AND APPROACHED THE KAGARIS AS A FRIEND.
NOW...
WE MUST ASK OURSELVES, JUST WHAT WERE THE CONTENTS OF THEIR RESEARCH?
AND WAS THE AGENT ABLE TO RECOVER THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR FOLLOWING THE KAGARIS' DEATH?

I BELIEVE...
...THAT BY SEALING AWAY HIS SON'S MEMORIES...
...PROFESSOR KAGARI ALSO HID THE RESULTS OF THEIR RESEARCH.
...
WHAT SAY YOU CHIAKI-KUN?

INSPECTOR REIZEN?
...
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT...
HMPH
TAKERU CHIAKI-KUN.
YOU ARE THE INVES-TIGATOR WHO WAS SENT TO OBSERVE ME...
I ASK BE-CAUSE JUST AS OUR AGENT IN QUESTION WAS MADE TO OBSERVE THE KAGARIS,

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
NICE PLAYING. HERE'S ONE ON THE HOUSE.
コトン THUNK
THANKS, BOSS.
DON'T SWEAT IT
YOUR PIANO REALLY SUITS THIS PLACE, HIKARU-KUN.
IF YOU WERE TO STOP PLAYING HERE, I'D HAVE LOADS OF DISAPPOINTED CUSTOMERS ON MY HANDS, YOU KNOW.
NAH...
MY PIANO IS NOTHING SPECIAL.
I MEAN IT.
I'D BE WILLING TO PAY YOU MORE IF YOU'LL CONSIDER COMING IN ON THE WEEKENDS AT LEAST.
I KNOW YOU DON'T NEED THE MONEY, BUT HAVING A JOB DOES THE MIND GOOD.

THE INHERITANCE AND INSURANCE MONEY I RECEIVED AFTER MY PARENTS' DEATH...
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
...WAS A GENEROUS ENOUGH AMOUNT TO LIVE OFF OF FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
BOSS HERE, MY DAD'S OLD FRIEND, TOOK ME IN WHEN I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
WE SOLD THE HUGE HOUSE I'D LIVED IN MY WHOLE LIFE AND USED THAT MONEY TO RENT AN APARTMENT FOR ME.
AFTER MY PARENTS' DEATH WAS DEEMED A MURDER AND NOT A SUICIDE...
...HE WORKED HIMSELF TO THE BONE IN ORDER TO GET ME MILLIONS IN INSURANCE MONEY

DUE TO THE FACT THAT MY PARENTS HAD TAKEN OUT A HUGE INSURANCE POLICY JUST BEFORE THEY DIED...

...THE INSURANCE COMPANY QUESTIONED WHETHER THEIR DEATH WAS REALLY A SUICIDE TO THE VERY END.

BUT DUE TO POLICE DENYING THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUICIDE FROM THE STATE THE CRIME SCENE WAS IN...

...AND WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE FACT THAT THEY HAD NO MOTIVATION FOR SUICIDE, THE INCIDENT WAS RULED TO BE A MURDER IN COURT.

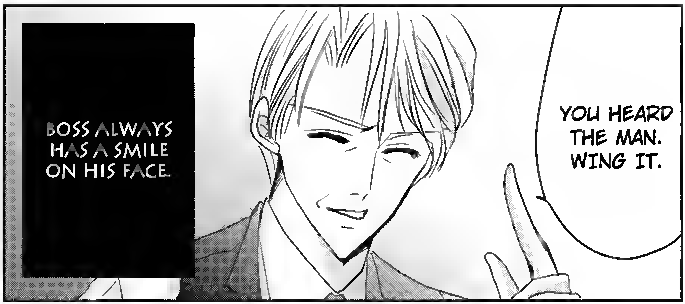
This story is completely fictional and unrelated to any real people, groups or events

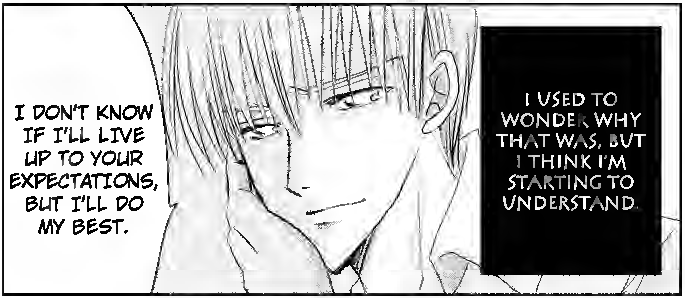
♪ HEY, BOSS! GIMME A BEER!

YOU'RE SURE IN A GOOD MOOD. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

YOU BET! LISTEN TO THIS...

PI-TA-PI-TA-PI-TA-


BOSS ALWAYS HAS A SMILE ON HIS FACE.
YOU HEARD THE MAN. WING IT.


I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST.
I USED TO WONDER WHY THAT WAS, BUT I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND.

SADNESS... LONELINESS... REGRET...
I'M SURE HE'S ENDURED A LOT OF PAIN IN HIS LIFE.
HE DOESN'T SMILE BECAUSE HE'S HAPPY
HE SMILES BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW HIS TRUE FACE.

...WHICH GOT ITS NAME FROM MY DAD.
THIS LOUNGE
Collaboration
I DON'T NEED A LOT OF MONEY
AS LONG AS I MAKE ENOUGH TO EAT...
...I'M SATISFIED WITH PLAYING PIANO AND HELPING OUT AT THE LOUNGE.
I DON'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF TALENT WHEN IT COMES TO CLASSICAL PIANO.
EVEN THOUGH I ARRANGE PIECES INTO LITTLE MORE THAN BASTARDIZATIONS, BOSS AND THE PATRONS TELL ME THEY LOVE TO HEAR ME PLAY

AS I STRIKE THE KEYS...
I'VE HEARD THIS MELODY SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
...I PEER INTO THE ABYSS OF MY MEMORY
JUST WHAT...
...SONG WAS THIS AGAIN?
BACK THEN...
I TOLD GENJI...
"YOU SHOULD FORGET."

"I'LL FORGET WHAT I SAW TOO."

"JUST FORGET EVERYTHING."

HE SEALED THE SECRETS OF HIS RESEARCH IN GENJI'S AND MY MEMORY.
AND HOPED THAT IF WE MET AGAIN ONE DAY AFTER THINGS CALMED DOWN...
...THE BEADS HOLDING OUR MEMORIES WOULD SPILL FROM THE TOYCHESTS OF OUR MINDS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
...BY KEY?

THE SONG I PLAYED FOR GENJI, A PIECE ORIGINALLY MEANT FOR THE PIANO.
HAVING REUNITED WITH ME AND COME IN CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF "MURDERS," THE OTHER KEY-WORD...
...IF I WERE TO NOW PLAY THAT SONG FOR GENJI AGAIN, IT'S LIKELY THAT HE'LL REMEM-BER EVERY-THING.